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Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Letter dated 8 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

During the general debate of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, from 25 to 29 September and on 1 October, a very small number of countries made reference to Taiwan's so-called "participation" in the United Nations and its specialized agencies. I have therefore been instructed to state the following positions of the Chinese Government:

1. There is only one China in the world, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. The Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the whole of China. The one-China principle has become a broad-based consensus of the international community. Although the mainland and Taiwan have not yet been reunited, the fact that the two sides belong to one and the same China remains unchanged, and will never change. The Chinese Government is committed to maintaining the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations and promoting the welfare of people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. Our firm position of adhering to the one-China principle and opposing "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" and "Taiwan independence" will never change.

2. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), adopted in 1971, thoroughly resolved the issue of China's representation at the United Nations in political, legal and procedural terms. The specialized agencies of the United Nations have also resolved the issue of China's representation in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 2758 (XXVI). The one-China principle and resolution 2758 (XXVI) must be observed when it comes to any Taiwan-related issues in the United Nations system, including the Secretariat.

3. The United Nations and its specialized agencies are intergovernmental organizations composed only of sovereign States. As part of China, Taiwan's participation in international organizations must be handled in accordance with the one-China principle. In United Nations forums, a very small number of countries, in disregard of the fact that Taiwan is part of China, have trumpeted Taiwan's so-called "participation" in the United Nations and its specialized agencies. This is unacceptable. No matter the means or excuses used, such moves are extremely damaging as they constitute an attempt to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" in the international arena, thus blatantly challenging the one-China principle

and violating resolution 2758 (XXVI). We strongly oppose any attempts aimed at creating "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" or aimed at undermining the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations.

4. Any act of playing up the Taiwan question at the United Nations is in essence an attempt to undermine China's sovereignty. It is not conducive to cross-Strait peace and stability or the well-being of the people of Taiwan. The Chinese Government calls upon the countries in question to do more to contribute to the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations and to refrain from acts that harm the interests of China and hurt the feelings of the Chinese people. We are convinced that the Chinese Government and people will continue to have the understanding and support of the United Nations and its Member States more broadly in its effort to safeguard sovereignty and territorial integrity, promote the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations and achieve the great cause of peaceful reunification.

5. People on both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to the same community of shared blood and future. The Chinese Government places great emphasis on the well-being of the 23 million Taiwan compatriots and is always committed to safeguarding their legitimate rights and interests. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was formulated under the framework of the United Nations and is led by Member States. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda must abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter, relevant norms of international law and the one-China principle. China will continue to comprehensively implement the 2030 Agenda and stay committed to promoting the development interests and well-being of all Chinese people. If the Taiwan authorities truly care about the interests of Taiwan compatriots, it should earnestly return to the one-China principle and the "1992 Consensus".

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 123.

(*Signed*) **Ma** Zhaoxu
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the People's Republic of China to the United Nations